

Appl. No. 10/066,122
Amdt. dated August 20, 2003
Reply to Office Action of July 8, 2003

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A switching device comprising:
at least one line card;
at least one switching card, wherein the at least one switching card comprises a switch element and a second mid-plane connector coupled to the switch element; and

a mid-plane coupled to the at least one line card and the at least one switching card wherein the at least one line card and the at least one switching card are perpendicular to each other, wherein the at least one line card and the at least one switching card are perpendicular to and on opposite sides of the mid-plane, wherein the at least one card comprises an ingress port and an egress port, and a first mid-plane connector coupled to the ingress port and egress port, wherein the first mid-plane connector comprises a plurality of mid-plane subconnectors, and wherein the second mid-plane connector comprises a single mid-plane connector.
2. (canceled)
3. (canceled)
4. (canceled)
5. (canceled)
6. (canceled)
7. (canceled)
8. (currently amended) ~~The switching device of claim 7~~ A switching device
comprising:

App1. No. 10/066,122
Amdt. dated August 20, 2003
Reply to Office Action of July 8, 2003

at least one line card;

at least one switching card; and

a mid-plane coupled to the at least one line card and the at least one switching card wherein the at least one line card and the at least one switching card are perpendicular to each other, wherein the at least one line card and the at least one switching card are perpendicular to and on opposite sides of the mid-plane, wherein the at least one line card comprises an ingress port and an egress port, and a first mid-plane connector coupled to the ingress port and egress port, wherein the at least one switching card comprises a switch element and a second mid-plane connector coupled to the switch element; wherein the first mid-plane connector comprises a single mid-plane connector, and wherein the second mid-plane connector comprises plurality of mid-plane subconnectors.

9. (canceled)

10. (currently amended) A method for configuring a switching device, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a mid-plane; and

providing at least one switching card and at least one line card on the mid-plane, wherein the at least one switching card and the at least one line card are perpendicular to each other, wherein the at least one line card and the at least one switching card are perpendicular to and on opposite sides of the mid-plane, wherein the at least one line card comprises an ingress port and an egress port, and a first mid-plane connector coupled to the ingress port and egress port, wherein the at least one switching card comprises a switch element and a second mid-plane

Appl. No. 10/066,122
Amdt. dated August 20, 2003
Reply to Office Action of July 8, 2003

connector coupled to the switch element, wherein the first mid-plane connector comprises a plurality of mid-plane subconnectors, and wherein the second mid-plane connector comprises a single mid-plane connector.

11. (canceled)

12. (canceled)

13. (canceled)

14. (canceled)

15. (canceled)

16. (canceled)

17. (currently amended) ~~The method of claim 16~~ A method for configuring a switching device, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a mid-plane; and

providing at least one switching card and at least one line card on the mid-plane, wherein the at least one switching card and the at least one line card are perpendicular to each other; wherein the at least one line card and the at least one switching card are perpendicular to and on opposite sides of the mid-plane; wherein the at least one line card comprises an ingress port and an egress port, and a first mid-plane connector coupled to the ingress port and egress port; wherein the at least one switching card comprises a switch element and a second mid-plane connector coupled to the switch element; and wherein the first mid-plane connector comprises a single mid-plane connector, and wherein the second mid-plane connector comprises a plurality of mid-plane connectors.

18. (canceled)

Appl. No. 10/066,122
Amdt. dated August 20, 2003
Reply to Office Action of July 8, 2003

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated July 8, 2003. Claims 1-18 are pending. Claims 1-5, 7, 9-14, 16 and 18 are rejected. Claims 1, 8, 10 and 17 have been amended in accordance with the Examiner's instructions. Claims 2-7, 11-15 and 18 have been canceled without prejudice. Accordingly, independent claims 1, 8, 10, and 17 remain pending in the present application.

Abstract

2. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it exceeds 150 words. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Applicant has revised the Abstract in accordance with the Examiner's instructions.

Allowable Subject Matter

10. Claims 6, 8, 15 and 17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

11. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

As to Claims 6 and 15 (which depend from Claims 5 and 14, respectively), patentability resides in the combined limitation wherein *the first midplane connector comprises a plurality of midplane subconnectors* (Claims 5 and 14) and *the second midplane connector comprises a single midplane connector*, in combination with the other limitations of Claims 6 and 15, respectively.

12. As allowable subject matter has been indicated, applicant's reply must either comply with all formal requirements or specifically traverse each requirement not complied with. See 37 CFR 1.111(b) and MPEP § 707.07(a).

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 2 through 6, and claim 10 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 11 through 15. Claims 8 and 17 have been rewritten in independent form including the limitations of all the intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 1, 8, 10 and 17 are in allowable form.

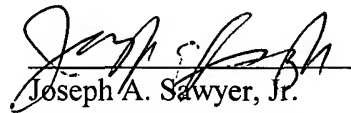
Appl. No. 10/066,122
Amdt. dated August 20, 2003
Reply to Office Action of July 8, 2003

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that independent claims 1, 8, 10 and 17 are patentable as amended. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests reconsideration, allowance and passage to issue of the claims as now presented.

Applicants' attorney believes this application in condition for allowance. Should any unresolved issues remain, Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,


Joseph A. Sawyer, Jr.
Sawyer Law Group LLP
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 30,801
(650) 493-4540